

CLAIMS

1. A topical ectoparasiticide formulation comprising from about 0.1 to about 25 weight percent of an ectoparasiticide, from about 25 to about 99.9 weight percent of a (C₃-C₆) branched alkyl (C₁₀-C₂₀) alkanoate spreading agent, and optionally up to about 70 weight percent of a miscibilizing agent compatible with organic solvent systems.
2. A formulation of Claim 1 wherein the spreading agent is a (C₃-C₆) branched alkyl (C₁₂-C₁₆) alkanoate.
3. A formulation of Claim 2 wherein the (C₃-C₆) branched alkyl (C₁₀-C₂₀) alkanoate is isopropyl myristate.
4. A formulation of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the ectoparasiticide is a spinosyn, or a physiologically acceptable derivative or salt thereof.
5. A formulation of Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the ectoparasiticide is cyperpyrethrin.
6. A formulation of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 which further comprises a miscibilizing agent selected from formic, acetic, propionic, benzoic, butyric, valeric, caproic, benzoic, enanthic, caprylic, pelargonic, capric, undecylic, lauric, tridecylic, myristic, pentadecylic, palmitic, margaric, stearic, oleic, arachidic, behenic, lignoceric, cerotic, montanic, triacontanoic, psyllic, or ceroplastic acids.
7. A formulation of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 which further comprises a miscibilizing agent selected from benzyl alcohol, ethylene glycol phenyl ether, D-limonene, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, methylated soybean oils and soybean oil methyl esters.
8. A formulation of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 which further comprises an effective amount of an antimicrobial agent.
9. An article of manufacture, comprising packaging material and a topical formulation for controlling an ectoparasite infestation on a small ruminant or companion animal contained within said packaging material, wherein said formulation comprises
 - a topical unit dose of a formulation of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8;
 - and,

replaced by
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wherein said packaging material comprises a label or package insert with instructions for topically administering the dose to the animal.

10. A method of controlling an ectoparasite infestation on a small ruminant or companion animal, comprising topically applying to the hair and/or skin
5 of the animal a formulation of Claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8.

11. The method of Claim 10 wherein the formulation is applied using a spot-on protocol.

12. The method of Claim 10 wherein the formulation is applied using a pour-on protocol.

10. 13. A topical ectoparasiticide formulation comprising from about 0.1 to about 25 weight percent of an ectoparasiticide, from about 25 to about 99.9 weight percent of a (C₃-C₆) branched alkyl (C₁₀-C₂₀) alkanoate spreading agent, and optionally up to about 70 weight percent of a miscibilizing agent compatible with organic solvent systems, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any
15 one of the Examples.